

AN ANARCHIST PERIODICAL FROM THE OCCUPIED LENAPE TERRITORY KNOWN AS PHILADELPHIA

# ANATHEMA



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## WHAT WENT DOWN

May 15 - Israeli flag vandalized with red paint along the Ben Franklin Parkway.

May 17 - A banner is hung on the Reading Viaduct in memory of Pablo Avendano an anarchist killed by an SUV while working as a bicycle courier for Caviar. "THE GIG ECONOMY KILLED PABLO REST IN POWER"

May 18 - Anti-cop graffiti in Spring Garden. "NO "GOOD COPS" IN A RACIST SYSTEM"

May 19 - Bike bloc rides through the city in memory of Pablo Avendano. Bricks, ceramics, and a lock are thrown at luxury cars, banks, police property and other symbols of domination. A road is barricaded with tires and police barriers. The attacks were done in solidarity with prisoners. "Every time their society kills one of us, we will attack them with furious revenge in our hearts and a wild fire in our eyes."

May - Anarchist and anti-police graffiti around Center City.

May 19 - Posters in solidarity with anarchist prisoners and J20 defendants go up in West Philly.

May 21 - Mural on police station at 17th and Montgomery tagged "Police Killed 1194 People Last Year". "Somebody would also like to say that it was fun and easy and that this wall lacks security cameras. lol"

May 30 - 4 Peacocks escape from the Philadelphia Zoo and strut

down I-76, shutting down traffic for hours and evading capture by the police. One was killed the next day by a motorist, two were eventually captured, and one remains at large.

June 8 - Earth mover at a new development project sabotaged in solidarity with the ZAD in Harrisburg, PA. "This small gesture was taken in solidarity with la ZAD of Notre-Dam-des-Landes, France, where rebels have fought to maintain an autonomous zone, free from the state and it's plans for almost a decade."

June - Attacks against properties with pro-police propaganda in Delaware County, PA.

June - Anarchist and anti-fascist graffiti in Delaware County, PA.

June - Pro-queer, anti-police posters go up in Center City before Pride.

June 10 - Trans woman arrested while attempting to burn a "blue lives matter" flag during Pride.

June 11 - Barbecue benefit for anarchist prisoners. "We raised money for anarchist prisoners and had a nice time hanging in the sun."

June 15 - Philly IWW holds picket at Grassroots Campaigns Inc in solidarity with workers locked out in Seattle.

June 19 - No Borders banner and burned US flag hung in Delaware County, PA. ★



## AMAZON WATCH

City Council recently added an exemption for Amazon to a proposed construction tax that would help fund affordable housing. The tech company's potential furthering of a gentrification agenda has never been so clear. Meanwhile, Amazon has also announced the opening of a distribution center in nearby Burlington, NJ, and the expansion of its Prime Now delivery of Whole Foods groceries to Philadelphia – expanding the potential targets for those that oppose them. Included in the Philadelphia expansion is a swath of the region stretching as far west as West Chester, in Chester County; as far north as Hatfield, in Montgomery County; and as far east as Mount Holly, in Burlington County. They will be delivered by the Amazon Flex courier service.

Philadelphia, like many cities around the country, is grappling with a housing affordability crisis. Housing prices went up 22 percent in the year between 2016 and 2017. As a result, the commissioner of the Department of Licenses and Inspections, an office well known for its "corruption and ineptitude," came forward to advocate for the revising of the city's building code to allow for more "rooming houses." This is an option for communal living among strangers that was more widely available before World War II.

Last month's reports of a banner drop over Whole Foods, pilfered Amazon grocery bags, stolen Ring doorbells, sabotaged Amazon lockers, and the vandalism and arson of the Amazon Treasure Truck have set precedents in resistance to the tech giant. ★





## *A Summer Against Prisons*

This summer might be the one where we make the prison walls tremble. Anarchists, prison rebels, anti-fascists, and abolitionists are calling for action and solidarity against prison society. Locally and internationally there are opportunities to chip away at the walls that separate us. At least ten different calls have been made for actions, with a focus on prisoner solidarity, prison abolition, and fighting state repression. Some of these calls are annual, while others are brand new. Because of the similar themes and the chronological order they are in, it seems these calls can contribute momentum and build toward the national prison strike at the end of the summer. This is an opportunity to build a bridge between the long tradition of anarchist anti-prison activity and the actions of prisoners preparing to go on strike across the country.

All summer we can expect to hear updates about the ongoing J20 trials. Recent updates reveal that the state's prosecutors were withholding evidence. This corruption is simply another example of how far the state is willing to go to repress and discredit anarchist and anti-capitalist actions. It's clear that the courts and the law are not on our side and are enemies of all who want freedom. A call has gone out for solidarity actions leading up to and surrounding each trial. Keep an eye out for the next trial date. (Check out [defendj20resistance.org](http://defendj20resistance.org))

June 11th is a recurring day of international solidarity that grew out of the repression faced by eco-anarchists. Every year fundraisers, banners, letter-writing events, attacks, and propaganda keep anarchist prisoners present in the struggle despite the state's isolation. (Check out [june11.org](http://june11.org))

Juneteenth (June 19th) is a day celebrating the end of slavery in Texas, and the entire USA. Many recognize that slavery has not completely ended; the prison system is still using legal slavery today. There are two calls for action on Juneteenth to push for the total abolition of modern day slavery. The Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement is calling on people to play capture the flag in the lead up to Juneteenth; their video emphasizes the pro-police "thin blue line" flags, but any symbol of American slavery, repression, or nationalism has it coming. Fight Toxic Prisons wants to see outreach in the lead up and action on the day of June 19, with a focus on ending prison slavery, stopping those profiting off prisoners, reducing prison populations (to zero

hopefully), and making environmental justice within the prisons. (Check out [revolutionaryabolition.org](http://revolutionaryabolition.org) & [fighttoxicprisons.wordpress.com](http://fighttoxicprisons.wordpress.com))

The Industrial Workers of the World are calling for a day of international solidarity with the remaining J20 defendants on June 25.

They recommend holding rallies outside US embassies and Department of Justice offices, organizing solidarity strikes, and generally making a scandal to fight a new wave of state repression. (Check out [iww.org](http://iww.org))

June 28th is a day of solidarity with imprisoned vegan anarchist Eric King. Eric is imprisoned for attacking the racist system in solidarity with the rebels in Ferguson, MO in 2014. He has been sentenced to ten years. His support team is asking that people raise funds, spread the word about Eric's case, and send him mail and books. (Check out [supportericking.org](http://supportericking.org))

This July 25th will mark the fourth annual day of solidarity with antifascist prisoners. Antifascists around the world are imprisoned for their actions against white supremacy and July 25th is a day to remind them they are still part of the struggle despite being kidnapped by the state. Solidarity events and actions are encouraged. (Check out [nycantifa.wordpress.com](http://nycantifa.wordpress.com))

Locally, Philly Anarchist Black Cross is organizing a run to support political prisoners on August 5th. Running Down the Walls is a fundraiser to lift up the voices of, and show solidarity with prisoners. Running Down the Walls is dedicated to the MOVE 9, and proceeds will be split between the MOVE 9 and other political prisoners. (Check out [phillyabc.wordpress.com](http://phillyabc.wordpress.com))

The week of August 23rd to 30th is international week of solidarity with anarchist prisoners. This year will be its sixth year happening. This is a good time to "build up security culture, support your local anarchist prisoners and fight back." (Check out [solidarity.international](http://solidarity.international))

Last, but certainly not least, August 21st to September 9th is set aside for a nation-wide prison strike. The call from inside is a response to the bloody riot in a South Carolina prison that left seven prisoners dead. The strike is planned for federal, state, and immigration prisons. Strikers are asking for improvement of prison conditions, the end of prison slavery, more rights, an end to various racist policies, and more. Prisoners plan to skip work, sit-in, boycott, and refuse food, among other things. Spreading word inside and outside, and solidarity actions are encouraged. (Check out "Jailhouse Lawyers Speak" on facebook or twitter) ★

## **STOP THE RAIDS!**

The city of so called Philadelphia is obliterating entire communities into nonexistence and handing over the reigns to the gentrifiers. The gentrifiers want everything: they want our land - they want it to raze our living spaces to the ground and replace them with a hideous, soulless office building aesthetic and some insipid bar crawling foodie land of toys. They demonize and degrade the people and ways of life that are the very things that define us as people and neighborhoods and want instead some fantastical white washed sterile bubble only they can access. They hate us, they don't want to be our neighbors, they want to take what we have and erase us from the landscape.

They called the cops (surprise surprise). As the gentrifiers have sucked the life out of Port Richmond, Northern Liberties, and Fishtown (along with many other sections of the city) their locust frenzy consumption eats ever on northward. The police are the tools that level the path so there is no speedbumps to slow down the bulldozers, coffee shops and beer gardens. The cops have already, and are moving once again, on and evicting tent communities in Kensington. People have been living on the streets in this area for generations. Whatever led them there and whatever battles they fight on the day to day are complex issues that will certainly not be helped by violent, forced removal by the state. The city uses empty and vague promises of "outreach" they have been making since forever that they we will extend to the uprooted. If the city actually cared about people and wanted to help them, **THEY WOULD NOT REMOVE THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE**. If you want to help a person, offer support and services: not evictions and imprisonment.

A deadly opioid epidemic is ravaging the tent cities and the city offers nothing more then a violent police raid to destroy the only shelters that protects people and keeps them alive.

Fight for the margins!  
Fight for the city!  
Fight for our loved ones!  
Fight to live! ★

## **STATE AIDS FEDERAL ICE ABDUCTIONS**

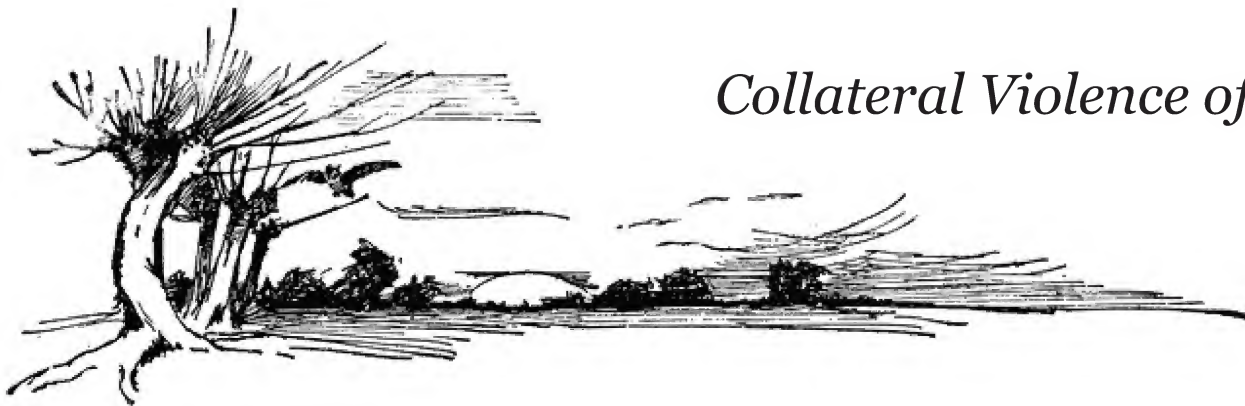
Pennsylvania has not previously had any oversight for state troopers' handling of immigration checks, but by the end of the month they will have to file a report any time they call Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This state has previously been categorized as a "free-for-all" for officers who want to round up undocumented immigrants, and lawyers and advocates say it is unclear whether the new policy will result in fewer immigration calls.

The Philadelphia ICE office has become one of the most aggressive in the nation when it comes to arrests of immigrants without criminal convictions. Their offices at 114 North 8th Street in Chinatown have been the site of numerous protests in recent weeks as children continue to be separated from asylum-seeking parents. Pittsburgh Gazette cartoonist Rob Rogers was fired on June 14th after depicting these government-sanctioned child abductions in a cartoon.

At least forty-nine people were arrested in the Philadelphia metropolitan area in a week-long operation by ICE in late May. ICE also has offices at 30 North 41st Street in West Philly, and this one office is listed as being responsible for the area encompassing Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia.

State Troopers appear to have at least one station in every county, with one in Philadelphia at 2201 Belmont Avenue. Other nearby locations include 1342 W. Baltimore Pike, Media, PA 19063; 2 Moxley Lane, Avondale, PA 19311; 997 Lieds Road, Coatesville, PA 19320; 3501 Neshaminy Boulevard, Bensalem, PA 19020; and 3218 Rickert Road, Perkasie, PA 18944. ★





## *Collateral Violence of Society*

This society is built on violence. The murder of a Philadelphia woman suspected of shoplifting by police in Deptford, NJ earlier this month is only the latest obvious example that property is favored over people. From the forced labor (i.e. slavery) in prisons and sweat shops, to the absolute devastation of the earth, to gendered violence in peoples' homes, violence is an obvious consequence of modern society and in most cases is required to maintain it.

In campaigns against gun violence that seek reform through gun-ownership prevention, many of us remind those advocates that more than one third of police are proven domestic abusers – not because we want police or domestic abusers to have guns, but because of the aforementioned necessity of such violence by society. It's been necessary since the agricultural revolution created private property and divisions of labor; it continued to be required in order to maintain a workforce in a world that didn't necessitate wage labor for survival so long as the earth continued to provide, and is increasingly a consequence of an ever-alienated world that must now produce on gargantuan scales to an earth-burdening populace. Its effects are evident in the increasing suicide rates (according to a new NPR report) in military populations that colonize new markets, resources, and labor pools, as well as the high risk of psychological disorder and pathological sadism among the more than 70,000 slaughterhouse workers in this country (according to The Yale Global Health Review).

This is not to predict or even advocate for a world without violence, for we must often “give as good as we get” if we are to maintain freedom once it is attained, but rather to fight the top-down violence of hierarchy that is part and parcel of capital, state, and civilization. Violence can be liberatory, as reluctant as most of us may be to use it, and preventative of further abuses from power – from the frequent cases of women killing abusive partners, to political assassinations. The latter, of course, doesn't often stop the entirety of the state apparatus from committing

its abuses, but can stop future programs (as has often been speculated about in the extreme case of the failed bombing of Adolf Hitler during a speaking event early in his career). This may in turn bring violent repression on its actors and/or anyone associated with them, but therein lies an additional weight of responsibility when considering such a course.

We don't care to quibble over what exactly constitutes violent or non-violent resistance, but we do openly endorse the upcoming prison strike beginning August 21st that may very well use what others define as violence to achieve its goals – as has previously been the case from Attica, NY to Smyrna, Delaware. This battle against the slave master has historically found aid in killing, as was also famously the case in the Nat Turner Rebellion of 1831. We would also do well to remember that modern American policing was born from catching slaves.

This may all be well and good in theory, as even first world liberals have been found supporting armed “third world” rebellions, but it is more difficult to accept in local practice. Such an investment in struggle often requires its participants to believe their lives depend on it, while society is structured in such a way as to convince its citizens that it is in their better interest to remain complicit – and the bulk of them find it possible to survive relatively comfortably in this country if they do. It is quite a sinister subterfuge on the part of power, given the increasing human-induced mass die-offs of insects, amphibians, birds, and more – in addition to the agricultural homogenization of the landscape – in an interdependent world that relies on diversity for its very existence.

Perhaps it takes the utter hopelessness that was expressed by Algerian youth, when they declared “we are already dead,” as such plights have clearly not resonated enough with those whose comfortable participation in mass society actually contributes to this death culture. ★



# *The Legacy of the Green Scare*

The era of repression against environmental and animal liberation movements that is now known as the Green Scare took place in the mid-2000s, but its effects on anarchist activities continue to be felt.

By the early 2000s, “eco-terrorism” was the primary domestic threat to America, according to the FBI. Dozens of arsons had succeeded in causing millions worth of damage to anti-environmental forces across five states on the West coast, and they had been conducted with significant technical expertise and careful security culture. The state had been unable to catch anyone for these actions, which included stunning spectacles like the arson of the Vail ski resort in Colorado.

The so-called “Operation Backfire” sought to finally “resolve” these cases. In 2003, local and federal officials formed a task force that began to question activists in the Northwest, and eventually pressured one, Jake Ferguson, into wearing a wire and traveling across the country to covertly record conversations with his former collaborators reminiscing about their actions.

In December 2005 and January 2006, the FBI arrested twelve people based on Ferguson’s information. Faced with life sentences for property destruction, one by one most of them in turn began to talk. This pointed authorities to even more people, in particular the formerly unknown participants in the massive arson of a purported genetic engineer’s offices at the University of Washington in 2001. One of them, Jennifer Kolar, who flipped immediately after being apprehended, also gave up passwords and technology-related information that provided damning evidence against many people.

People turning informant singlehandedly allowed these investigations to send people to prison. In the case of Operation Backfire, a single person’s decision to inform ruined the lives of 12 people; the only three who did not snitch ended up spending years in prison. Dozens of people cooperated with the government and were lost to their former communities.

In other cases, police seized on the few public traces of support for illegal action that they could find. In 2006, the state jailed animal and earth liberation activist Rod Coronado on felony conspiracy charges for answering a question from an audience member about ELF tactics. Also in 2006, six activists with the SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) campaign were jailed essentially for running the campaign’s

website, which compiled the campaign’s often illicit activities against the corporation.

Informing on people can lead to death as well as imprisonment. Bill “Avalon” Rodgers killed himself in his jail cell in Flagstaff, AZ after being arrested in December 2005. No evidence tied Avalon to the scene of the crime for which he was accused, except two of his associates — Jennifer Kolar and Lacey Phillabaum — who had decided to collaborate in order to reduce their own sentences.

Some takeaways from this era:

- Those to whom you’re closest are just as capable of informing on you as anyone else (Marius Mason is serving 22 years in prison because his ex-husband and co-defendant snitched; Walter Bond is in prison for 12 years because his brother wore a wire in order to implicate him and collect reward money).
- Those you spend your life in the closest proximity to and have affinities with are also not necessarily trustworthy; for example, housemates or love interests. In the lead-up to the 2010 G20 summit in Toronto, police planted 12 different informants in southern Ontario, two of whom were very successful in gaining the trust of anarchist communities and living in their collective houses. Green Scare defendant Eric McDavid was entrapped into a bomb plot by his love interest Anna, who turned out to be an FBI informant.
- People may make unpredictable decisions to cooperate based on intimate relationships with one another. Green Scare attorney Lauren Regan speculates in a recent interview that Lacey Phillabaum would not have cooperated if her partner, Stan, had not already cooperated against her. Regan also notes that Darren Thurston eventually cooperated after being pressured by Chelsea Gerlach, his romantic partner at the time, who had already decided to cooperate and was getting extra points from the FBI for flipping additional people. On the other hand, Joyanna Zacher and Nathan Block were a couple who did not snitch.
- We cannot necessarily predict how people we used to collaborate with or currently associate with will respond to state pressure. Many people involved in the Green Scare investigation seem to either have become more willing to cooperate with the government once their political views had changed, or immediately turned snitch once they got arrested.
- An exciting spate of successfully unsolved crimes does not mean the crimes will remain unsolved forever. If the state feels sufficiently threatened, it can decide to deploy new strategies to build cases, even with essentially no leads (usually through informants and lengthy investigations, as



in the University of Washington firebombing case).

For these reasons as well as others, anarchist scenes have become notoriously unwelcoming, with aspirations to security culture that often seem inappropriate to the level of illegal activity that those in the scene seem to be engaged in. But security culture is not just important to people who are already involved in risky direct action, but also for anyone who wants to leave that option open to themselves for the future. It is important for those who are newly interested in anarchist activity to think critically before immediately building a public profile for themselves as an activist, since this could compromise their ability to do clandestine actions later. For those who never want to engage in criminalized activity, security culture is also meant to protect them from being dragged into conspiracy charges or grand juries.

Moreover, now that the government is very familiar with how underground networks work, their strategies for sending in new undercovers have only improved. Their major goal now that the crimes of the 2000s have been resolved is to do preemptive psychological mapping of radical networks in order to know who to target in the future. So a new person at a meeting will of course be looked at with suspicion, since even being present for a political conversation will reveal a lot about how people relate to one another and what kinds of activities people are involved or interested in.

Many of the Green Scare defendants seem like they were involved in a particular kind of strategy, one that potentially revered popular opinion about an environmental movement more than destroying anti-environmental forces. Many participants later disavowed their earlier extremist “phase,” blaming it on youth and misguided principles. Green Scare prisoner Justin Solondz wrote in his sentencing memorandum about the University of Washington arson: “The actual goal of making a notable public statement in favor of the environment morphed into the polar-opposite consequence of completely discrediting the local activist fringes of the environmental movement.” If we take such statements at face value, it means it’s important to ascertain what the real goals of those we’re working with are — are they committed to deepening insurgent activities, or will they at some point be swayed by other people having bad opinions of them? Is someone’s involvement in direct action a youthful phase or motivated by something else that could

later interfere with their prior commitments?

It also makes sense to be wary of any psychological tendencies of our friends and partners in crime that might make them susceptible to security lapses. It makes sense to use our intuitions and do some psychological mapping ourselves in situations in which something small going wrong could ruin our lives. It makes sense not to trust anyone and to hide as much as possible from as many people as possible.

This is probably not the kind of scene that any of us ideally would want to be creating. This atmosphere of hostility and distrust does not just affect newcomers, but can also deeply compromise our ability to feel bonded to one another and part of a shared struggle. But as governmental and corporate surveillance only increase their capabilities, we have found few other options.

As they say, security culture requires us to challenge ourselves psychologically, so the sometimes negative aspects of culture we’ve had to create also has some advantages. It reminds us not to speculate or spread rumors about other people’s political involvement, or to carelessly put forth any other ideas or information that might allow others to map out the scene and determine likely suspects. It reminds us that we’re not entitled to other peoples’ trust or friendship just because we all say we’re down with the same things. The kind of bonds we’re looking for take much longer to form, and will happen as a result of our behavior as well as our words.

The question of how to spread anarchy in this atmosphere — which is best done face-to-face, not just through written propaganda — remains open. At a time in which things are more obviously getting worse and worse, state repression has forced anarchists and other radicals into a corner we find it hard to invite other people into.

That is not to say that we can’t do crimes and get away with it, as there are countless examples of successes that are celebrated or unknown for lack of prosecution. It’s also not to say that we won’t go to prison, but that doesn’t have to be the end of our contributions either. As a milieu, the Green Scare has helped us to improve upon our methods of communication as well as our choices as to who we involve ourselves with at each new juncture. ★



## ANTI-ANARCHIST REPRESSION IN CANADA

Eight people have now been arrested north of the colonial border in the wake of what is now being called the Locke Street riot in Hamilton, Ontario on March 3rd. The highly successful demonstration against gentrification caused over \$100,000 worth of damage to complicit businesses, with no arrests. It also produced serious public outrage from property-loving liberals and white supremacists alike, the latter of whom held a rally in late March and repeatedly attacked local anarchist community center The Tower.

The Tower has become the target of retaliation against the demonstration, and appears to be the main focus for the police investigation, which seemingly otherwise had no leads.

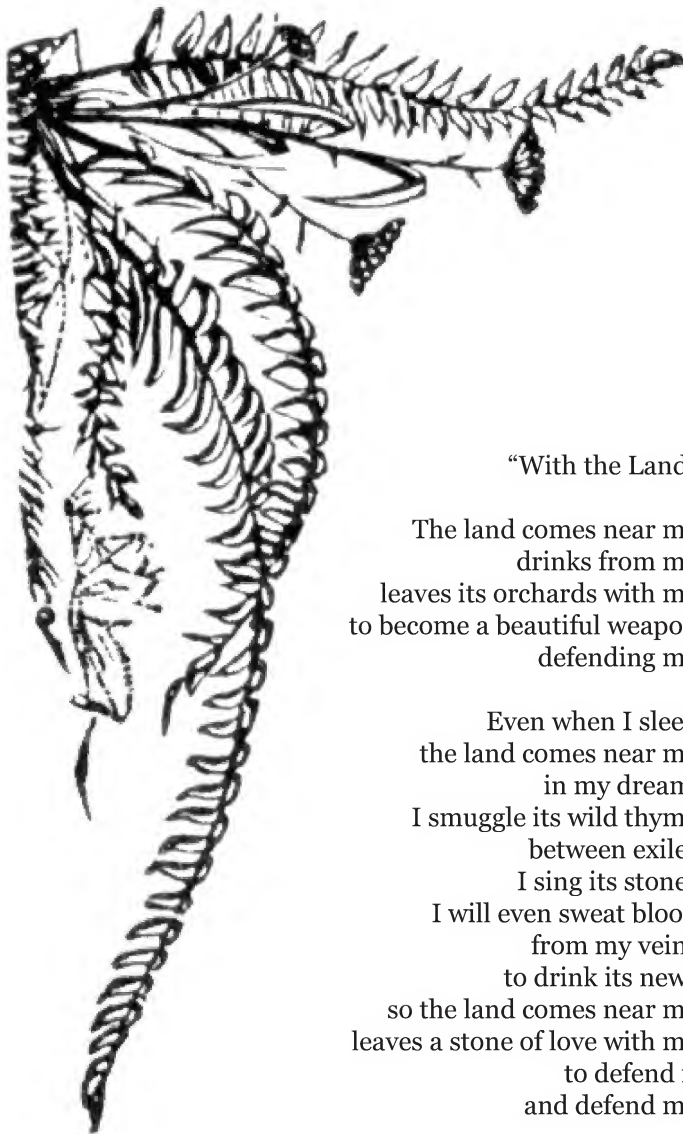
On April 5, over a month after the march, police raided the home of Cedar Hopperton, whom they allege is the “operator” of the Tower. Cedar was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit unlawful assembly while masked, amongst other bogus charges, and told they would be held without bail for a year or longer awaiting trial. Cedar was finally granted bail and released in mid-May to be held on house arrest. The investigation appeared to have come to a halt.

On May 31, this suddenly changed. Police arrested three additional people in connection with the Locke Street riot, including one person who was picked up by the SPVM in Montreal and flown to Hamilton. Police also released the names of three more people whom they were seeking to arrest, all of whom turned themselves in soon after and were released on bail.

On June 11, police arrested an eighth person in connection with the case, this time in London, Ontario. Police have claimed that they have now identified everyone who was at the march based on surveillance footage and that they plan to arrest 30 people, the number of people who were present at the march.

Some have speculated that this unusually exhaustive investigation and collaboration between provinces was made possible through increased federal funding for policing leading up to the G7 summit, which took place in Quebec City in early June.

For updates on this situation, check out [hamiltonanarchistsupport.noblogs.org](http://hamiltonanarchistsupport.noblogs.org) and [north-shore.info](http://north-shore.info). In addition to financial support for both the defendants and the Tower, which has had to relocate, Hamilton Anarchist Support has asked for people to meet up in their own towns and to talk about repression and gentrification, share the details of the case and its relevance, and clarify our basis of support for the defendants. ★



“With the Land”

The land comes near me  
drinks from me  
leaves its orchards with me  
to become a beautiful weapon  
defending me

Even when I sleep  
the land comes near me  
in my dream.  
I smuggle its wild thyme  
between exiles  
I sing its stones  
I will even sweat blood  
from my veins  
to drink its news  
so the land comes near me  
leaves a stone of love with me  
to defend it  
and defend me

When I repay it  
I will embrace it a thousand times  
I will worship it a thousand times  
I will celebrate its wedding on my forehead  
on the rubble of exiles  
and the ruins of prisons

I will drink from it  
It will drink from me  
So that the Galilee would remain  
beauty, struggle, and love  
defending it  
defending me

I see the land;  
a morning that will come  
and the land will come near me



Rashid Hussein (1936-1977)